

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 20-22 are pending in this application. Claims 15-18 and 20 have been amended herein. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least the changes to Claims 15-18. Claims 13, 14 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claim 22 has been added to further define Applicants' invention. Support for new Claim 22 can be found, for example, at page 59, line 4 through page 66, line 19. As such, no new matter has been added. Claims 15 and 16 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action dated September 5, 2003, the Examiner indicated that Claims 15-18 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Applicants have now amended Claim 15 to include the limitations of former Claim 13, and Claim 16 to include the limitations of former Claim 14. Claims 15 and 16 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 17, 18, and 20-22 are also believed to be in condition for allowance, since Claim 17 depends from Claim 15, Claim 18 depends from Claim 16, and Claims 20-22 depend from either base Claim 15 or 16, which as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, only claims that are believed to be in condition for allowance remain. As such, Applicants respectfully request expedited processing and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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